# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CIVIL AVIATION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2901
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2003
BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT WITH DUBAI AND QATAR
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have singned a new bilateral air agreement with Dubai and Qatar during 2002-03;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposals for allowing more flights between Qatar and India and Dubai and India are pending with the Government;

(d) whether Air India does not have adequate number of aircraft to implement the bilateral agreements fully; and

(e) the details of negotiations underway alongwith the problems and inhibitions affecting Air India in this regard?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION ( SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY )

(a)and(b): During the bilateral civil aviation talks between India and Qatar held in June, 2002 a revised text of the Air Services Agreement was initialled and Hyderabad and Cochin were granted as additional points to the designated airline of Qatar and the capacity entitlements for each side were increased. As regards UAE(Dubai) though no newagreement was signed during 2002-03,; Emirates were granted 500 seats per week each during May 2002 & March 2003 for operations to Cochin for a period of 2 years subject to commercial agreement with Air India. Reciprocal increase in capacity was also made available to designated airlines of India.

(c): Though Qatari authorities had requested for grant of daily frequency on Doha-Hyderabad sector with enhanced capacity and inclusion of New Delhi as a new destination, they have been informed that it is too early to consider any further enhancement in capacity at this stage. Similarly, Emirates in their Five year plan for India have proposed forenhancement, in a phased manner, of their capacity entitlement and access to more Indian airports by 2007. Increase in traffic rights is considered during bilateral civil aviation consultations in the background of growth in traffic between the two countries based on the principle of reciprocity and mutual advantage.

(d)&(e): Though Air India is constrained by their fleet availability, it is in the process of finalizing its fleet expansion plans. In the meantime, Air India has taken 9 A310-300 aircraft and 1 B747-400 aircraft on dry lease and is endeavouring to utilise increased bilaterals fully.